

## KO: To understand why the English Navy defeated the Spanish Armada

### Key Vocabulary

- Armada
- Hellburner
- Overthrow
- Invasion
- Tactics
- galleon

### **Prior learning task**

Who were Henry VIII children?

Who do you think was the most successful child and why?

What does the 'Elizabethan Golden age' mean?

### **What Is an Armada?**

'Armada' means a fleet of warships. The famous Spanish Armada was sent to England by Philip II of Spain in 1588. His 'armada' was made up of around 130 ships containing around 30 000 troops and 2500 guns.






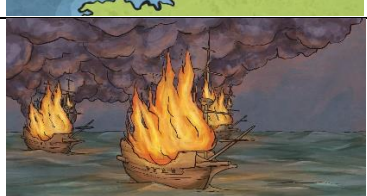



### **What Was the Reason for the Invasion?**

At the end of the 1500s, Spain was a very powerful nation. They were at odds with England for various reasons (mainly religious) and England had helped Spanish rebels attack Spain's treasure fleet. Philip II of Spain was also very angry that the English Queen Elizabeth I had executed the catholic Mary Queen of Scots in 1587.

### **Philip II's plan was to:**

1. gather an armada together of 130 ships;
2. sail to the Netherlands where the Spanish Army would be picked up;
3. invade England.

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**The Series of Events in 1588**

<p>1. The Spanish ships leave Lisbon to pick up soldiers. However, they run into bad weather and have to return.</p>	
<p>2. The Spanish fleet leave for the second time from Spain.</p>	
<p>3. The Spanish are spotted as they pass Plymouth.</p>	
<p>4. The English fleet, led by Sir Francis Drake, attack the Spanish in the English Channel but the Armada are in a crescent formation and no ammunition can get through, so Drake retreats.</p>	
<p>5. The Spanish Armada anchor near Calais.</p>	
<p>6. Drake takes the English fleet to Calais to attack the Spanish again, using fire ships to split the Spanish Fleet in what is known as the Battle of Gravelines – this time succeeding.</p>	
<p>7. The Spanish ships are chased away from England via the North Sea towards Scotland.</p>	
<p>8. When rounding Scotland and Ireland, the Spanish ships encounter bad weather and ships and men are lost.</p>	
<p>9. A depleted armada returns to Spain.</p>	

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When Francis Drake took the English fleet to attack the Spanish while they were anchored near Calais, he used what are known as fire ships.

These were old ships that were set fire and sent to sail towards the enemy. This made the Spanish ships scatter and break their formation, making it easier for the English to attack the Spanish ships.

**The Results**

England rejoiced at defeating the Spanish and Elizabeth I commissioned a painting to mark the occasion. England also remained a protestant country (rather than catholic) with the monarch in charge (rather than the Pope).

Britain also became a force to be reckoned with when it came to naval warfare, while Spain's superpower status waned.

**How the British defeated the Spanish:**

- English strategy (hellburners)
- Luck (weather)
- Adaptable boats

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4s9q6f/video>

**Talk Task:** Were the English predicted to beat the Spanish Armada? Why/why not? How did the English defeat the Spanish Armada?

**Task:** To write a newspaper report reflecting on the great British win over Spain.

**Planning Your Newspaper Report**

**Headline**


**Who is the report about?**


**What is the report about?**


**Where did the event happen?**


**When did the event happen?**


**Planning Your Newspaper Report**

**Introduction**

Briefly sum up what happened. Try to grab the reader's attention.


**Main Story**

Tell the reader exactly what happened. Include facts, quotes and eyewitness accounts.


**Conclusion**

What can we expect to happen next?


**Step for Depth:** Why was it so important for Elizabeth I and England to defeat the Spanish Armada?

**Plenary:** Why did the Spanish want to invade England?